

USAID supported a five-day workshop from November 23-27 for women Constituent Assembly (CA) members on "Effective Legislative Practices" to raise their awareness on governmental and electoral systems and federalism options currently under consideration for Nepal's new constitution. This workshop, attended by around 60 women CA members from twelve political parties, represented a wide cross-section of ethnic and regional affiliations.

Dr. Kevin A. Rushing, Director of USAID/Nepal, remarked, "It is our hope that this workshop will provide the tools CA members need to draft the constitution and participate fully in party and parliamentary proceedings. In the past, through the Women's Leadership Academy, we have provided trainings on topics such as federalism, the constitution drafting process, parliamentary culture, political communication, policy development, budgetary planning, community dialogue, and constituency services."

This workshop is a component of the USAID-funded Women's Leadership Academy (WLA) program that began in July 2008 and is implemented by the National Democratic Institute. The WLA strives to help women leaders participate in governance by building and strengthening their political knowledge and skills, particularly in the constitution drafting process, public speaking, advocacy, and policy development. To date, over 170 women including 102 CA members have participated in the WLA.